

derivatives, may also be used. In some embodiments, porphyrins and substituted derivatives of the porphyrin family may be used. See for example, *Comprehensive Coordination Chemistry*, Ed. Wilkinson et al., Pergamon Press, 1987, Chapters 13.2 (pp73-98), 21.1 (pp. 813-898) and 21.3 (pp 915-957), all of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference.

[0274] Suitable sigma donating ligands using carbon, oxygen, sulfur and phosphorus are known in the art. For example, suitable sigma carbon donors are found in Cotton and Wilkenson, *Advanced Organic Chemistry*, 5th Edition, John Wiley & Sons, 1988, hereby incorporated by reference; see page 38, for example. Similarly, suitable oxygen ligands include crown ethers, water and others known in the art. Phosphines and substituted phosphines are also suitable; see page 38 of Cotton and Wilkenson.

[0275] The oxygen, sulfur, phosphorus and nitrogen-donating ligands are attached in such a manner as to allow the heteroatoms to serve as coordination atoms.

[0276] In a preferred embodiment, organometallic ligands are used. In addition to purely organic compounds for use as redox moieties, and various transition metal coordination complexes with  $\delta$ -bonded organic ligand with donor atoms as heterocyclic or exocyclic substituents, there is available a wide variety of transition metal organometallic compounds with  $\pi$ -bonded organic ligands (see *Advanced Inorganic Chemistry*, 5th Ed., Cotton & Wilkinson, John Wiley & Sons, 1988, chapter 26; *Organometallics*, A Concise Introduction, Elschenbroich et al., 2nd Ed., 1992, VCH; and *Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry II*, A Review of the Literature 1982-1994, Abel et al. Ed., Vol. 7, chapters 7, 8, 10 & 11, Pergamon Press, hereby expressly incorporated by reference). Such organometallic ligands include cyclic aromatic compounds such as the cyclopentadienide ion [ $C_5H_5(-1)$ ] and various ring substituted and ring fused derivatives, such as the indenylide ( $-1$ ) ion, that yield a class of bis(cyclopentadienyl) metal compounds, (i.e. the metallocenes); see for example Robins et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 104:1882-1893 (1982); and Gassman et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 108:4228-4229 (1986), incorporated by reference. Of these, ferrocene [ $(C_5H_5)_2Fe$ ] and its derivatives are prototypical examples which have been used in a wide variety of chemical (Connelly et al., *Chem. Rev.* 96:877-910 (1996), incorporated by reference) and electrochemical (Geiger et al., *Advances in Organometallic Chemistry* 23:1-93; and Geiger et al., *Advances in Organometallic Chemistry* 24:87, incorporated by reference) electron transfer or "redox" reactions. Metallocene derivatives of a variety of the first, second and third row transition metals are potential candidates as redox moieties that are covalently attached to either the ribose ring or the nucleoside base of nucleic acid. Other potentially suitable organometallic ligands include cyclic arenes such as benzene, to yield bis(arene)metal compounds and their ring substituted and ring fused derivatives, of which bis(benzene)chromium is a prototypical example. Other acyclic  $\pi$ -bonded ligands such as the allyl( $-1$ ) ion, or butadiene yield potentially suitable organometallic compounds, and all such ligands, in conjunction with other  $\pi$ -bonded and  $\delta$ -bonded ligands constitute the general class of organometallic compounds in which there is a metal to carbon bond. Electrochemical studies of various dimers and oligomers of such compounds with bridging organic ligands, and additional non-bridging ligands, as well as with and

without metal-metal bonds are potential candidate redox moieties in nucleic acid analysis.

[0277] When one or more of the co-ligands is an organometallic ligand, the ligand is generally attached via one of the carbon atoms of the organometallic ligand, although attachment may be via other atoms for heterocyclic ligands. Preferred organometallic ligands include metallocene ligands, including substituted derivatives and the metalloceneophanes (see page 1174 of Cotton and Wilkenson, *supra*). For example, derivatives of metallocene ligands such as methylcyclopentadienyl, with multiple methyl groups being preferred, such as pentamethylcyclopentadienyl, can be used to increase the stability of the metallocene. In a preferred embodiment, only one of the two metallocene ligands of a metallocene are derivatized.

[0278] As described herein, any combination of ligands may be used. Preferred combinations include: a) all ligands are nitrogen donating ligands; b) all ligands are organometallic ligands; and c) the ligand at the terminus of the conductive oligomer is a metallocene ligand and the ligand provided by the nucleic acid is a nitrogen donating ligand, with the other ligands, if needed, are either nitrogen donating ligands or metallocene ligands, or a mixture.

[0279] In addition to transition metal complexes, other organic electron donors and acceptors may be covalently attached to the nucleic acid for use in the invention. These organic molecules include, but are not limited to, riboflavin, xanthene dyes, azine dyes, acridine orange, N,N'-dimethyl-2,7-diazapyrenium dichloride (DAP2+), methylviologen, ethidium bromide, quinones such as N,N'-dimethylantra(2,1,9-def:6,5,10-d'e'f')diisoquinoline dichloride (ADIQ2+); porphyrins ([meso-tetrakis(N-methyl-x-pyridinium)porphyrin tetrachloride], varlamine blue B hydrochloride, Bindschedler's green; 2,6-dichloroindophenol, 2,6-dibromophenolindophenol; Brilliant crest blue (3-amino-9-dimethylamino-10-methylphenoxyazine chloride), methylene blue; Nile blue A (aminoaphthodiethylaminophenoxyazine sulfate), indigo-5,5',7,7'-tetrasulfonic acid, indigo-5,5',7-trisulfonic acid; phenosafranin, indigo-5-monosulfonic acid; safranin T; bis(dimethylglyoximate)-iron(II) chloride; induline scarlet, neutral red, anthracene, coronene, pyrene, 9-phenylanthracene, rubrene, binaphthyl, DPA, phenothiazene, fluoranthene, phenanthrene, chrysene, 1,8-diphenyl-1,3,5,7-octatetracene, naphthalene, acenaphthalene, perylene, TMPD and analogs and substituted derivatives of these compounds.

[0280] In one embodiment, the electron donors and acceptors are redox proteins as are known in the art. However, redox proteins in many embodiments are not preferred.

[0281] In a preferred embodiment, the detection module comprises an optical detection such as laserinduced fluorescence or UV-absorbance. An example of basic confocal epifluorescence set up for high sensitivity is found in Jiang et al., *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 2000, 14, 861-869. An improved UV-detection method for microfluidic device can be found in Salimi-Moosavi et al., *Electrophoresis* 2000, 21, 1291-1299.

[0282] In a preferred embodiment, the detection module comprises a mass spectrometry apparatus such as Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization (MALDI) and electrospray ionization-mass spectrometry (ESI-MS). The term